REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview granted to applicant's representatives Marc A. Berger (Reg. No. 44,029). The interview was held by telephone on Tuesday, December 28, 2004. Applicant has amended the claim language as discussed with the Examiner during the interview.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present amendment is intended to place the application in condition for allowance and is believed to overcome all of the objections and rejections made by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 25, 51 and 75 to more properly claim the present invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 – 100 are presented for examination.

On pages 2 – 5 of the office action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 7, 10, 16, 23, 25 – 31, 34, 40 – 43, 51 – 57, 60, 66, 73, 75 – 81, 84 and 90 - 93 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chang et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,627,979 ("Chang").

On pages 5 – 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 11 – 14, 17 – 22, 35 – 38, 45, 50, 61 – 64, 67 – 72, 85 – 88, 95 and 100 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang and Yeager et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,950,190 ("Yeager").

On pages 9 and 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 8, 9, 24, 32, 33, 44, 58, 59, 74, 82, 83 and 94 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang and Tuli, U.S. Patent No. 6,003,034 ("Tuli"). Although claim 74 is not listed on page 9, it is listed on page 10 and applicant understands that this claim is intended to be included in this rejection.

On pages 10 and 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 15, 39, 65 and 89 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang and Wical, U.S. Patent No. 6,112,201 ("Wical").

On pages 11 and 12 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 46 – 49 and 96 – 99 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang and Yeager and further in view of Tuli.

On page 13 of the Office Action, the Examiner has responded to applicant's arguments, and indicates that *"Chang ... describes the display of a class, and instances of that class, in this case the class 'Animal' and subclasses/instances 'Dog' and 'Cat'."* Applicant respectfully submits that <u>instances</u> of a class and <u>subclasses</u> of a class are very different notions. Classes and subclasses are akin to relational database tables, whereas instances are akin to the actual data stored in such tables. For example, a class "Employees"

may contain subclasses "Legal Department Employees" and "Engineering Department Employees". Instances, however, refer to specific data regarding individual employees, such as

ID = 123456, Last Name = "Smith", First Name = "John", Street Address = "789 Broadway Street, City = "New York", State = "New York", Zip Code = "10000", Employment Starting Date = "12/01/04".

The "Dog" and "Cat" subclasses of "Animal" mentioned in Chang refer to generic classes. Instances would correspond to data, i.e., identifying information, for specific dogs or cats.
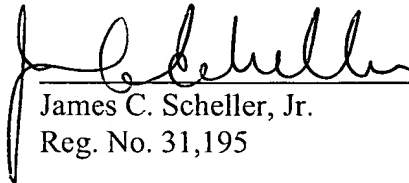
The notions of class, subclass and instance are discussed in the Background of the present specification, and summarized in the list of definitions appearing on pages 10 and 11 of the present specification. An example XML representation of an instance appears on page 44 of the present specification.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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